

## [Ophelia do spirits ever follow you?]

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Approx. 112 words

FOLKLORE

SCRAPS OF VERBATIM CONVERSATION

"Ophelia do spirits ever follow you?" "Jes good sperrits come round me."

"Why just good ones?"

"Cause I prays, I sings, I mourns an' I weeps an' I doan stagnate de Lord when I prays. He know what you observe (deserve) befo' you ax for it. No way how you coax em you aint go git it. He done hab it all set down in de beginning ob t'ings. Some pussons calls dat fate. It dere in de embrine (embryo) jes lak de egg befo' de chicken come. 'E all yellow fluff fust, but aint 'e go be black, white or any color lak He 'tended to befo' long. De Lord know you thru and thru an' dese sperrits mus' know too. Dey done pass deat (death) an' see wid de soul eye."

In describing her innermost feelings Ophelia said:

"We got two inwards one good, one evil, one say go, one say come. You got to follow one dat is all dere is to it, so mek up you mind to fetch up wid de Lord, den Hebben is you gold." (goal)

## Library of Congress

Ophelia was reprimanded for a misdemeanor and being sensible enough to realize that she could not deny the accusation, said:

“I stop me wagon right dere, de horse done turn round an' go.”

Source: Ophelia Jemison, Addison County, Charleston, S. C.